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The Case of the Losing-Winner

Wyatt Sawyer

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THE CASE OF THE LOSING-WINNER

Mark 8:34-38*

INT:

Jesus, the best-versed teachers of all times. Knew every method, approach, technique and process. Taught literally, spiritually, symbolically and figuratively. Used PARADOX a lot.

PARADOX: Seemingly contradictory statement—which in fact is absolutely true. Lesson tonight.

Use: To point man to the way of life which is acceptable to God. II Tim. 2:15—rightly dividing.*

*(Or. To cut straight, direct one's paths, rightly dealing, handling aright, teach scriptures accurately.)

I. PRINCIPLE OF PARADOX: "Cannot have cake & eat it too."

A. Two great choices before us:

1. ENJOY this life ^{only} and forfeit the Future. II.5:6.
2. INVEST this life and secure the Future. M. 6:33.

B. Problem: Jews were feeding-the-flesh and M. 5:6. starving-the-spirit.

II. PRINCIPLE ILL. IN EVERYDAY LIFE. (Just thinks winning.)

A. Example for BOYS: ^{and men. 40 battles & 4 pitches. 137 games.}
Estimate arm has 21,000 pitches. Save all for games. No practice. No warm ups! SAVING MY ARM!! INJURE!
TRUTH: Pitchers must lose some pitches to save arm.

B. Example for GIRLS:

Human body has only so much energy. Must save eyes and energies for job after graduation. Little application, sweat or toil. Flunk out.

TRUTH: Must lose energies to save one's education.

C. Example for PARENTS:

Family have 7 days a week only. 5 days work and school. 1 day clean house & yard. 1 day to rest, play. No Bible, no Worship, No Chr. education, culture. Results: Neglect love, sacrifice, cooperation and spiritual values—Parents unfaithful to each other (divorce), kids jealous and envious, unkind, unprincipled and unfeeling. Chaos!!!

TRUTH: Families must lose themselves in God's service if would save their homes. Gal. 6:7-8.

III. BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF LOSING-WINNERS. Lose to win.

- * A. Peter & Apostles. Mark 10:28-31.* You deny one!!!?
B. Paul lost all to win Christ. Phil. 3:7-8. IIT.4:7-8.

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTES" R

Cannot lose for winning

Cannot fail.

SS - 3-16-69
MT 9-9-74

CONCLUSION: Cannot possibly WIN the next life
except by LOSING this life in service.

INV: Matt. 16:24-26. Why denying self for Christ? Pays!!

Explained in story

Ill. Two men in sleigh. (Per. p. 7½)

He who sought to SAVE himself LOST HIS LIFE. FROZE.

He who was willing to LOSE himself SAVED himself
in the process of saving others.

Jesus calls the sinner: Matt. 11:28-30. Acts 2:38.

Jesus calls the erring-Christian back. Rev. 3:20.

Congregation invites you to identify.

THE WINNING-LOSER

INT: Jesus was the world's best-versed teacher of all times. Jews, verbose with language.
Jesus knew and used nearly every educational method, approach, technique & teaching process.
 TAUGHT: literally, figuratively, symbolically, and spiritually. Very interesting to hear.
 USED: Metaphors, similes, hyperboles. logic, allegories, dilemmas and paradoxes, *parables*.
PARADOX: Seemingly contradictory statement, which in spite of appearances, is absolutely true.
 STUDY: A paradox and its meaning. *Mk. 8:34-38.

I. PARADOX OF THE WINNING-LOSER.

- A. Basic meaning: "You cannot have your cake and eat it too."
- B. Lesson points out the two choices of man:
1. Live in and for the FLESH only and you will lose your SOUL. I Tim. 5:6. Dead!
 LIVE FOR PRESENT ONLY, LOSE THE FUTURE!!!!
 2. Lose (invest) your life in service to God and man and save THIS life and the life to COME. Matt. 6:33. John 14:3.
- C. PROBLEM: The Jews were feeding their flesh and starving their soul & spirit. Matt. 5:6.
 (They thought were winning. God said losing.)

II. O. T. ILLUSTRATES THE LOSING-WINNER. *Loser!*

- A. SOLOMON: sought life, liberty & happiness; thru worldly pleasures and possessions.
1. Tried purely carnal life. *Ecc. 1:12-14a.*
 2. Tried every flesh-satisfying experience.
Ecc. 2: 1, 3, 4, 5-9.

Conclusion: Cannot save (have) the abundant life in the flesh only. *Ecc. 2:11 & 17.*

- a. Vanity: Empty, vain and useless.
 - b. Vexation: Disturbing, distressing, troubling & tormenting to the soul.
3. Eternal principle for happiness. *Ecc. 12:13.*
 LESSON: He who USES & LOSES his life for 14
 God shall receive God's reward at Judgment.

III. N. T. ILLUSTRATED THE WINNING-LOSER. *Winner!*

- A. PAUL: Lost his life in service to Jesus.
1. **Phil. 3:7-8.* One goal. *Acts 9:15-16.*

MT 7-29-74 AM O

2. Traded earthly enjoyment, comforts, pleasures, fame and fortune for his soul.
II Cor. 11:24-28.

3. Paul saved his life, in losing, and KNEW he had saved it. Bold & confident!!!

II Tim. 4:7-8. OUR GOAL!

Now
IV. ILL. VIOLATION OF THE WINNING-LOSING PRIN.
BREAKS UP HOMES:

1. Family has 7 days a week: Work, play & worship.
2. 5 days used for work and schooling.
3. 1 day used for house and yard care. Sat.
4. 1 day used for rest, relaxation & recreation ^{SUN.}
5. No Bible study. No worship to God. No spiritual training. No moral instructions.
6. ALL IS: selfishness, self-centeredness, envy, jealousy, unkind and unfeeling.
7. Parents: unfaithful to each other. Offended and get a divorce.
8. Kids frustrated, fight each other and parents. Become enemies to their own flesh & blood.
9. RESULTS: Shattered home & lives.
10. CAUSE : Lived for the FLESH only, ^{from} and from flesh reaped corruption. Gal. 6:7-8.
11. SOLUTION: Family must LOSE selves in service and worship to God and He will grant success!
LOVE SAVES ALL.

INV. EACH OF US IS LIVING ONE OF THESE TYPES OF LIFE.

1. Sowing to the flesh---reward is corruption./
2. Sowing to the spirit--reap everlasting life.

Are YOU losing your life in trying to save it
JESUS SAYS: Save it by giving it to Him!!
B-R-C-B.

Chr. Bro. or Sis.: Losing your life thru sin?
I John 1:9.

HOW PLEASE JESUS MOST if not identified
with His children and helping all can??.